



Restore Hetch Hetchy

IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Vol 3, No. 2

Summer 2004

Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council Supports Hetch Hetchy Restoration

Restore Hetch Hetchy wishes to sincerely thank the Tuolumne Me-Wuk

Tribal Council for the following supportive letter it wrote on November 14, 2003 to Congressman George Radanovich, Chair of the National Parks Subcommittee:

Dear Congressman Radanovich:

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians fully supports the efforts of the nonprofit group Restore Hetch Hetchy. We ask you to support one million dollars in

funding for a Feasibility Study to demonstrate win-win options for the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley

and for the San Francisco Bay Area water and power users. Hetch Hetchy Valley, in Yosemite

relatives lived in Hetch Hetchy Valley before the Tuolumne River was dammed. We have strong ties in nearby Yosemite Valley as well.

Ron Good, Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy, has acknowledged Hetch Hetchy Valley as our homeland, and we appreciate that he has involved us early in the planning process. We agree that exploration of possibilities for restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley is timely and realistic based on the existence of and potential for other options for energy generation and



Restore Hetch Hetchy presents an Albert Bierstadt poster of Hetch Hetchy Valley to Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Elders. Left to right: Johnny Dick, Marvin Marine, Bob Hackamack (Chair of RHH Technical/Engineering Committee), Millie Hawkins, Ron Good (RHH Executive Director), Sonny Hendricks.

National Park, is the indigenous territory of the Tuolumne Me-Wuk people. Our Tribal Members'

continued on page 2



Restore Hetch Hetchy is:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ron Good

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harold Wood, Chair
Spreck Rosekrans, Vice-Chair
Laura Lockwood, Treasurer
Mark Palley, Secretary
David Brower (Deceased)
Robert Brower
Mark Cederborg
Donald Fuhrer
Robert Hackamack
Geoff McQuillkn
Dr. Jerry Meral
Marsh Pitman
Kay Pitts
William Resneck
Richard Rypinski
Felicia Woytak

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Ronald Alessio Allison
Dr. Peter Andersen
James Bush
Jerry Cadagan
Yvon Chouinard
Paul Davis
Tom Dosh
Jeffrey Holt
Huey Johnson
Robert Kallman
Deborah Landowne
Christine White Loberg
Mike McCloskey
Tim Molinare
Dr. Barbara Mossberg
Dr. Roderick Frazier Nash
Jeff Nixon
Kathryn Petersen
Mark Ross
Galen Rowell (Deceased)
Lee Stetson
Dr. Ed Wayburn
Richard Wiebe



Foreground shows mortar holes for grinding acorns left in Hetch Hetchy Valley by ancestors of present-day Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal members. Background shows the field of stumps left by San Francisco when it cut down all the trees on the floor of Hetch Hetchy Valley in the early 1900s before building the dam and reservoir.

continued from page 1

water storage, and current and future repair and maintenance needs for existing Hetch Hetchy water and energy delivery systems.

The Me-Wuk Tribe knows that restoration is a process that would span generations. As this project evolves it is imperative that the perspective and desires of members of the Me-Wuk Tribe, and those of other tribes with ties to Hetch Hetchy Valley, be incorporated into the planning and implementation

process. Formal Agreements must be set in place among all concerned at each juncture. The Me-Wuk Tribe is committed to remaining involved, over time, with this project.

Thank you for supporting Restore Hetch Hetchy with one million dollars in funding for an initial Feasibility Study. 

*Sincerely,
James Fryar
Acting Tribal Chair*

**PLEASE SEND US
YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS
SO WE CAN KEEP YOU
UP-TO-DATE!**

Send your e-mail address to: info@hetchhetchy.org You can read our newsletters on-line. If you would prefer not to receive a "hard copy" please send an e-mail to: info@hetchhetchy.org

Meet Our Board: Marsh Pitman

Marsh Pitman readily embraced the prospect of a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park when he first heard about it from Ron Good in 1997.

Marsh got so enthused that he and his wife, Carol, hosted the June 1999 meeting at their Merced, California home where those assembled agreed to form Restore Hetch Hetchy as an independent non-profit entity and serve as initial members of the Board of Directors.

Marsh's interest in Yosemite started from family stories of travel by mule team and wagon from Modesto, and adventures of camping for a month at a time in Tuolumne Meadows during the summers from 1912 to 1916. The stories and photographs on the walls of his grandparent's home were reinforced by Marsh's first visit to the Tuolumne River watershed, thanks to his grandparents. They patiently stopped just east of Tioga Pass so their 13 year-old grandson could ascend to 10,000-foot elevation for the first time, before visiting their beloved Tuolumne Meadows once again. Grandmother Pitman had the makings of lemonade to add to the water of the Soda Springs as he heard some stories of their experiences repeated yet again.

Marsh was fortunate to be selected for the 1950 class of the

Yosemite Field School of Natural History, a National Park Service training program for naturalists, in the summer following his BA in Biological Sciences from San Jose State. He worked as a seasonal naturalist in Yosemite for the summer of 1951. Marsh's graduate study at Stanford in Education and in Botany at the University of Arizona and other studies have contributed to his teaching career in Hayward, California and then in Merced - closer to Yosemite. During his tenure as a life sciences instructor at Merced College, Marsh initiated the Environmental Science course. He was able to arrange for students from Merced to be introduced to museum techniques as they provided needed assistance to the curator of the Yosemite Museum in 1970. Marsh has had a variety of roles as naturalist, outings leader, and tour leader in California, Switzerland, Alaska, Hawaii, New Zealand, Ecuador, Peru, Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

Marsh has been a community environmental leader in interacting with administrators and planners of the new campus of the University of California - Merced. Through the efforts of many concerned citizens, the UC Merced campus will be situated in a more eco-friendly location, and with a greater awareness of environmental concerns by



Marsh Pitman

faculty and administrators.

Marsh has led Hetch Hetchy wildflower and natural history walks in April or May for several years. Those interested in joining him in 2005 or 2006 are invited to make contact via info@hetchhetchy.org. Others interested in assisting with educational opportunities centered in the Hetch Hetchy region of Yosemite National Park are also invited to contact Marsh at this e-mail address. 

RHH Feasibility Study UPDATE



Restore Hetch Hetchy volunteers and staff have been hard at work preparing our Feasibility Study, and hope to have it ready by the end of summer!

The completion of our Feasibility Study will represent a very significant milestone for Restore Hetch Hetchy, as it will make recommendations for removing the O'Shaughnessy Dam in an environmentally sensitive manner, supporting natural restoration processes, and examining alternative water storage and electrical power options.

Dr. Jerry Meral, the former Executive Director of the Planning & Conservation League, is the

primary “mover and shaker” for our Feasibility Study. Bob Hackamack, the Chair of our Technical/Engineering Committee, and Spreck Rosekrans, another member of the Committee, have been invaluable participants. All three are members of our Board of Directors. And, graphic artists Jef Gunion from Felton and Diane Blakely from Penn Valley are doing a wonderful job of presenting the material in a visually pleasing manner. Please see the above photo of a draft of the front cover of the Feasibility Study that our graphic artists have prepared. The top image of Hetch Hetchy is by artist Brooks Anderson, and the bottom image is by

photographer Tony Dunn. On June 27th, Jerry will present a draft of the Feasibility Study to the Board of Directors.

While many people have volunteered their time and incredible talents toward the Feasibility Study, such a project is not without substantial costs. But, incalculable benefits will ultimately result from a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. Thanks very much to so many of you who made special contributions for the research, production, and distribution of the Feasibility Study.

It's very exciting to see it all coming together! 

Attorney Bill Yeates from Fair Oaks Receives a Beautiful Photo

Attorney Bill Yeates from Fair Oaks receives a beautiful photo by James McGrew of Hetch Hetchy's wildflowers and waterfalls in appreciation of excellent legal representation against the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission resulting in a favorable settlement in 2003. Others (left to right) in the lawfirm who assisted with the lawsuit were attorneys Keith Wagner and Mary Akens, and office assistant Matt Coldwell. Not pictured is Carol Yeates, office administrator. Thanks to the entire legal team. See the Summer 2003, Winter 2003, and Spring 2004 newsletters for information about the lawsuit. 



Keep Up-to-Date on Sierra Nevada Conservation Issues

The Sierra Nevada Alliance sends out a free electronic update with news articles, information, and events, regarding conservation and sustainability issues happening in or relevant to the Sierra. This "Alliance Sierra Weekly" is e-mailed out every Wednesday. The Sierra Nevada Alliance, a nonprofit organization, has been protecting and restoring Sierra land, water, wildlife, and

communities since 1993. RESTORE HETCH HETCHY is a member of the Alliance. The weekly update keeps those who love the Sierra informed about conservation issues happening throughout the range.

To sign up: e-mail Kathy@sierranevadaalliance.org. Put in the subject line "Sign up for Weekly". In the body of the e-mail, include your name, address, city,

zip, phone and e-mail. Your contact information will not be sold or given to another group or business, but will be used solely for communications with the Sierra Nevada Alliance. For more information, e-mail Kathy or phone (530) 542-4546. Visit www.sierranevadaalliance.org for more information on the Alliance.



Testimonial for “Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite’s Lost Valley” documentary film



Photo by Taber, 1908

Looking up Hetch Hetchy Valley from Surprise Point, 1908.

RHH Executive Director, Ron Good, received this e-mail from RHH member Guy Ward from Richmond, Virginia:

Thanks for sending the DVD copy of your new documentary film: “Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite’s Lost Valley.” I thought it was excellent!

The film footage of Tueeulala Fall rekindled one of my fondest memories of Yosemite National Park. On my last visit to the park in May 2000 I hiked the Hetch Hetchy trail twice. On the first hike, Tueeulala was only a delicate wisp. But, by the end of the week, a surge of warm weather had transformed it into the waterfall that Muir described, as “the most graceful waterfall I have ever seen.”

I was so excited to see it like that, I left the trail and climbed up the talus slope to a point almost right beside it. I found a flat rock

slab and just laid there for over an hour looking up at the mix of comets and veils plunging downward toward me. Even better, nobody else was around, not even on the main trail. I couldn’t believe I had such an amazing sight all to myself. Seeing Tueeulala Fall like that just made the whole experience very special. And Wapama Fall was roaring as usual.

The views that John Muir had of Tueeulala Fall, Wapama Fall, and Kolana Rock from Hetch Hetchy’s meadows must have been breathtaking. I think if we all had Hetch Hetchy Valley to hike through with meadows, the two great waterfalls, groves of trees, and a free flowing river, it would be as rewarding an experience as any in the national park system. And, I’ve seen many of our nation’s best parks over the last 15 years, east and west.

I’m a latecomer to Yosemite,

only visiting the park for the first time in 1996. I fell in love with it immediately and was shocked to learn about the other great valley (Hetch Hetchy) in Yosemite, and what happened to it. I live 3,000 miles away and wasn’t born until 1958, decades after the dam was built, but I felt like I had been robbed. Hetch Hetchy Valley would have been the place for me.

The work your group is doing makes me certain that one day I’ll be able to stand on the Hetch Hetchy Valley floor and see it in all its glory. When the ceremony occurs decommissioning the dam and starting the restoration process I want to at least be able to say I had a small part in making that great day happen.

See page 7 of the newsletter to order a DVD or VHS copy of our documentary film! 

**Please Use Our Website Catalog To View the
Items Described Below at www.hetchhetchy.org.**

- Please send ____ copies of Restore Hetch Hetchy's new 20-minute documentary video in ____ VHS format or ____ DVD format. I am enclosing \$16 for each video (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ____ copies of landscape artist Albert Bierstadt's poster/painting of Hetch Hetchy Valley. I am enclosing \$20 for each poster (postage included), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ____ Restore Hetch Hetchy t-shirt(s). Size ____ M ____ L ____ X-L
I am enclosing a check for \$20 (plus \$3.50 for priority mail postage) for each shirt, or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ____ Restore Hetch Hetchy bumper stickers. I am enclosing \$1 for each bumper sticker (postage included), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ____ Restore Hetch Hetchy license plate holders. I am enclosing \$10 for each license plate holder (plus \$2 postage for each license plate holder), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ____ greeting cards at \$2 each or ____ sets of 6 for \$10 (price includes postage). I have included a check or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send _____ copies of David Brower's 1955 video, Two Yosemite's. I am enclosing \$10 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please enroll me as a new member or renew my Restore Hetch Hetchy membership.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ FAX (____) _____ E-mail _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible **Restore Hetch Hetchy membership donation** of:

\$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____ \$ ____ other

\$ _____ per month (minimum \$5 per month) beginning immediately for Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Please make check payable to **RESTORE HETCH HETCHY**
or include credit card information and insert in an envelope and mail to:
Restore Hetch Hetchy, Membership Office, P.O. Box 3538, Sonora, CA 95370.

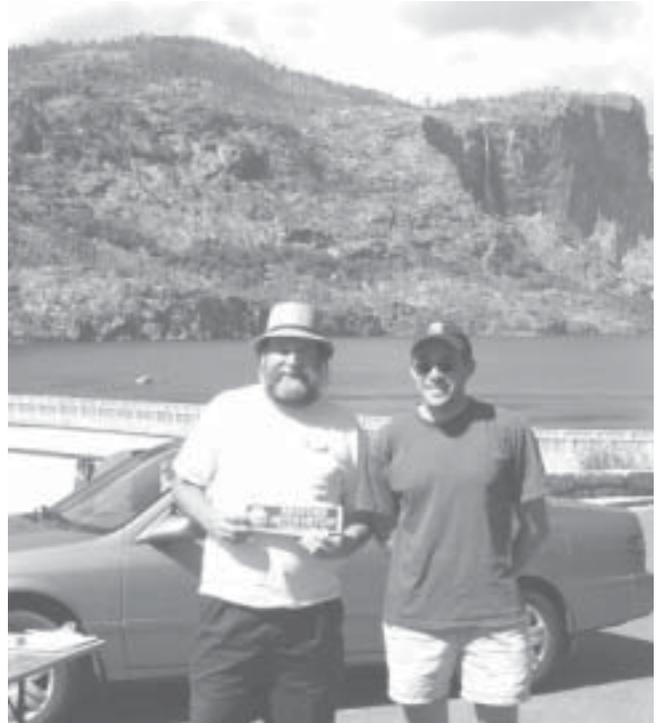
Please charge my credit card: ____ Master Card ____ VISA

Signature _____

Card # _____ Expires _____



RHH members John and Betsy Griffith from Murphys rode their bikes (with a RHH bumper sticker!) from the Strawberry Music Festival to Hetch Hetchy where RHH had a Free Speech table over the Memorial Day weekend.



RHH volunteers (left to right) Kirk Kelly (from South Carolina) and Mark Cederborg (RHH Board member from Vallejo, CA) help staff the RHH Free Speech table at Hetch Hetchy along with RHH Executive Director, Ron Good, over the Memorial Day weekend.

**PLEASE
RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TO
RESTORE
HETCH
HETCHY!**

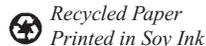
Use the form on page 7 to renew.

RHH Office Moves to Sonora!

The RHH office has moved to Sonora in Tuolumne County! If you're planning a trip to the foothills or to Yosemite, please stop in. Call (209) 533 - HHV 1 [4481] or e-mail info@hetchhetchy.org to make arrangements for visiting.

Planning and Conservation League Foundation
Restore Hetch Hetchy Membership Office

926 J Street, Suite 612
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-8726



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #2066
Sacramento, CA

Please visit our website at
www.hetchhetchy.org

